growers, the Government has taken various steps which includes:

(1) Announcement of minimum statutory price of raw jute and mesta;

(2) Expansion of market coverage both by the Jute Corporation of India and State Co-operatives;

(3) Enlargement of storage capacity;

(4) Full manning of purchase centres through recruitment of additional hands;

(5) Sanction of credit on 'as required' basis by the Reserve Bank of India for undertaking price support operation, total credit sanctioned so far being Rs. 90 crores;

(6) Issue of directive on 6-9-85 by Jute Commissioner to all working jute mills in the private sector to build up stocks of raw jute up to specified levels so as to step up purchases of raw jute by mills;

(7) Grant of permission to Jute Corporation of India to export raw jute;

(8) Use of mass media by Jute Corporation of India to advise the farmers not to make distress sale of their produce at prices below the statutory minimum to unscrupulous traders and bring their produce to JCI/Co-operative purchase centres;

(9) Record purchase of over 27 lakh bales of raw jute by the Jute Corporation of India.

**Fall in the demand for raw jute goods**

1011. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late there has been a fall in the demand for raw jute goods in and outside the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) India's exports of jute goods have been coming down over the years mainly due to stiff competition from synthetic substitutes and another producing country, although, of late, the declining trend has been arrested. In so far as domestic demand for jute goods is concerned, it has increased over the years due to growing production in agriculture and industrial sectors notably of foodgrains, sugar, cement, fertilisers etc.

**Funds received from non-resident Indians**

1012. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total funds received from Non-resident Indians during 1985;

(b) what was the amout retained in banks by way of deposits and how much has been diverted to other investment avenues;

(c) whether Government propose any further tax concessions exclusively for Non-resident Indians: and

(d) if so. what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The details of investments made

by NRIS during 1985 under the different schemes are as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

| | 31·12·85 |
|---|---|
| (1) Direct Inve tment (Proposals approv d) | 477·23 |
| (2) Portfolio Investment (Actual Purcahsers of shares and Debentures) | 53·03(p) |
| (3) Bank Deposits (Outstanding Balances in NRE/ FCNR A/cs | 4814·66* |

P — Provisional

* — As on 30th Nov., 1985

(c) Not for the present.

(d) Does not arise.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED. QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 3RD MARCH, 1986

### Newsprint prices

*101. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times newsprint prices have been raised during the the 6th Five Year Plan period and thereafter and when and by how much and what are the reasons therefor;

(b) Whether it is a gact that some new newsprint manufacturers are not making newsprint but are manufacturers white printing paper;

(c) if so, what are the reasons thereof;

(d) whether small paper mills have offered to manufacture newsprint at comparable prices; and

(e) if so, whether this offer has been accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI): (a) A statement indicating the price of domestic newprint from time to time is laid on the Table of the House (*see below*). The price increase has taken place chiefly due to rise in the cost of (1) raw materials, (2) chemicals, (3) power and (4) labour and other over-heads.

(b) and (c) No existing newsprint manufacturer is, according to the information available, currently using his licensed newsprint production capacity for production of other items. However, two of the existing newsprint manufacturers, namely, M/s. Mysore Paper Mills and Tamilnadu Newsprint and Papers Ltd. besides their newsprint capacity, are also licensed for manufacture of other varieties of paper.

(d) and (e) All India Small Paper Mills Association has made such an offer but subject to adequate support price, uninterrupted flow of inputs, provision of sufficient funds and guaranteed offtake of production. No industrial licence is required for investment upto Rs. 5 crores and any request for a larger project will be considered on merit.

The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Monday, the 3rd March, 1986 was adjourned as a mark of respect to late MR. OLOF PALME the Prime Minister of Sweden. Answers to Questions put down in the list for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, the 4th March, 1986.